

## AN OLD LANDMARK.

Workmen Begin to Tear Down the Walls of the Old G Street Convent.

The Nuns of the Visitation and Their Work in Washington.

One by one the roses fade. One after another the old landmarks of *autumn* Washington are disappearing, and soon there will be not "one rose of the wilderness left on its stalk to tell where the garden had been." Workmen yesterday morning were engaged in demolishing the high brick wall surrounding the old convent at the corner of Tenth and G streets. That wall had been there for a generation. It had become a feature of the place. It was old, weather beaten, and gloomy. The shadows it cast were dark and forbidding. It lent a lonely aspect to the pleasant neighborhood around. And yet, because of the associations that cluster around it, because of its age, because it is a landmark with youth of the present generation, there are many who regret to see it go. New and handsome dwellings will take its place. The square will lose its lonely aspect, property will advance in price, the locality will become more cheerful, and the change is not an agreeable one to many. Conservation clings to sentiment, and devoutly believes that old walls, like old friends, old wine, old books, are the best.

The old convent, whose garden this wall surrounded, was built by the Nuns of the Visitation order in 1852. This order was founded in 1610 by St. Francis De Sales, prince and bishop of Geneva, St. Jeanne De Chantal, of Dijon, conducting. The object of the order is educational. It was instituted in the United States in Georgetown, in 1729. Here the superiority of the order in imparting instruction was so speedily and pre-eminently manifested that their name became a household word. The Academy of the Visitation became famous for its instruction in the famous institution of female learning south of Mason and Dixon's line. It was also widely known and largely patronized from the north and west.

Father Mathew, the venerable pastor of St. Patrick's church, in this city, whose front is cherished by all the old inhabitants of the district irrespective of religion, was anxious that Washington should have a school for young ladies on the same basis as the Georgetown academy. In his efforts to secure and under the direction of the archbishop of the see, Right Rev. Samuel Eccleston, a community was established in this city. Their first location was at the southwest corner of Ninth and F streets in the two and a half story building, occupied by them in 1852, and by Mr. Stellingsma as a boarding house. In those days the convent was unfinished, the postoffice still incomplete, F street, between Seventh and Ninth streets, was vacant lot with a board fence. A wood yard was kept at the postoffice corner, between Seventh and F. Where Masonic temple stands was a row of small dingy brick houses with peaked roofs like old fashioned Dutch bellfries. Buzard's Roost was a fashionable boarding house. Ninth street was a narrow, unpaved alley, lined with small frame houses. A branch of the Tiber ran up through Temple square, and as far north as H street, and the land was cut up in gulches and ravines. This neighborhood, the heart of Washington, was a rough and forbidding looking place.

In 1852 the community purchased from Mr. Christopher Caton the corner lot at Tenth and G streets with the large house on the west. They paid for the property \$25,000, a large sum in those days. Father Mathew had directed the community on its first organization \$10,000, and \$35,000 of his niece, the first mother superior. These sums were applied in part payment of the purchase price. In 1854 they purchased from Mr. Andrews the adjoining house, corner of Tenth and G streets, which was bought from Mr. Woodward the next house west. The entire corner of the three, the one originally bought, had been for the occupancy of the French minister, but had never been occupied. The Washington community of the Nuns of the Visitation moved under a roof tree that had never sheltered any beings until it held them and their sacred purposes.

There were eight in all of this community at first—seven choir sisters, those who chant the offices before the altar, and one lay sister. Theirs was the first community of cloistered nuns ever located in Washington city. The members came from Georgetown, Baltimore, and Frederick communities. The first mother superior was Eliza Mathew, a niece of Father Mathew, who was in religion was Sister Mary Juliana Mathew. The order of the Nuns of the Visitation permits its members to retain their family surname. Sister Juliana was born in Charles county, Maryland, and her sister, Sister Ellen Cummings, whose name in religion was Sister Mary de Chantal; she was born in Dublin, but at 6 years of age came to Washington, where she was raised. Sister de Chantal is the oldest member of the community. She is tall, slender, and of a voice remarkable for its refined intonation and pleasant melody, and an expression of serene, cultured refinement which instantly wins the hearer's heart. Out of the quiet beauty of her face, her soul white and stainless and serene with perfect peace, Sister de Chantal has instinctively learned the art of growing old gracefully. The present mother superior is Louisa Dyer, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Augustine Dyer. Sister Augustine was born in Prince George county, Maryland, and comes of one of the old Maryland families noted for force of character and intellectual ability. She is a little above the medium height, slightly inclined to corpulence, with a carriage and an air of gentle dignity. Over her quiet, lovely face the years have passed, each one adding a grace, not one diminishing a charm. In her world life Sister Augustine was a belle, beloved, and loved. The radiant mind and beautiful person, whose charming society still exercises their gentle and winning influences over her sister nuns and her pupils. Sister Augustine is a model mother superior and is deeply beloved by her community.

Mary Olive Stonestreet, a sister of the late Father Stonestreet, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Philomena Stonestreet, was born in Charles county, Maryland. Mary Stonestreet, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Emmanuel, was born in Washington. She was the daughter of the late Edward, one of the most prominent residents of Washington in *autumn* days. Louisa Saunders, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Benedicta Saunders, was born in Charles county. Anne Rebecca Osborn, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Margaret Osborn, was born in Frederick, Maryland.

Eliza Snowden, whose religious name was Sister Mary Anna Snowden, was born in Maryland. The lay sister, whose name in religion was Sister Mary Euphrasia Hughes. Of these eight original members of the community Sister Augustine de Chantal, Euphrasia Margaret, Anne Maria and Benedicta are still living; the others are dead. The first three are still with the community. Sister Margaret is in Georgetown and Sister Benedicta in Baltimore. The first mother superior, Sister Juliana, went to Richmond as superior of the convent there about fifteen years ago.

There are now twenty-nine members of the community. They have had a great many more, of whom numbers have died and been transferred to communities elsewhere. In the old garden, whose encompassing wall was demolished yesterday, each sister had a plot of flowers which she personally cultivated. Old residents of Washington remember the profusion of roses which filled the garden which could not be seen from the outside, but whose fragrance filled the air with heavenly sweets.

The old convent was occupied until Sept. 3, 1877, when the community moved to its present location, on Connecticut avenue. For twenty-two days the school taught by the nuns was a day school, for the next year it is both a boarding and day school. Over 140 pupils are on its rolls. The school itself is justly famous among the best institutions in the country for girls and young ladies. The order of the Visitation is a democratic one. Each community elects its mother superior, who is elected for a term of three years and is eligible for re-election. No one can be elected the third consecutive term. After serving

## THE MINER NORMAL SCHOOL.

Its Quarterly Examination Yesterday—Interesting Programme of Exercises.

The third quarterly examination of the young ladies composing the Miner normal school took place yesterday at the Miner building, commencing at 9:30 a. m. and continuing until 1:30 p. m. The exercises embraced a variety of subjects. The young ladies acquitted themselves in a creditable manner. Their knowledge of the various branches in which they were examined manifested by their prompt and correct answers. Their self possession and deportment under the ordeal to which they were subjected was in the highest degree commendable, and together with the trust in the superior of the excellent teacher, Miss M. B. Briggs, is a safe guarantee that when assigned to schools as teachers the trust will be well guarded. The examination was witnessed by a large number of visitors, prominent among whom were Commissioner Edmunds, Hon. Frederick Douglass, Trustees Johnson and Birney and Walker Lewis, esq. Commissioner Edmunds was introduced to the school by Trustee Johnson, and complimented the pupils upon the proficiency shown by them in their studies. Mr. Edmunds also visited, in company with Trustee Johnson, the other schools in the building, including the high school, and expressed himself well pleased with the appearance of the schools both as to neatness of rooms and the general order which prevailed. The programme of examination was as follows:

Opening exercises.  
Analysis of studies. Miss Wayman  
Lesson on the heart. Miss Cox  
Lesson on fractions. Miss Bailey  
General exercises in fractions.  
Music.  
Decimal fractions. Miss Janifer  
General exercises in decimals.  
Lesson on Pressure of Air. Miss Syphax  
Lesson on Longitude and Time. Miss Evans  
Practice.  
Child's book of nature. Eye (third grade), Miss Taylor.  
Arithmetic, fourth grade. Miss Lee  
Language, third grade. Miss Cole  
Music, fourth grade. Miss Bruce  
Natural science—third grade. Miss Brooke  
Natural science—fourth grade. Miss Coleman

General exercises in culture.  
Incidents related.  
Music.

Visit A. Saks & Co., 316 Seventh street.

## MARKET PRICES.

Bread, 4 cents per loaf.  
Pies, 5 to 10 cents each.  
Parsley, 2 cents a bunch.  
Melted butter, 40 cents a pound.  
Beets, 40 cents per peck.  
Sage, 10 cents per pound.  
Catsup, 10 cents per pint.  
Lard, 15 cents per pound.  
Lard, 35 cents per pound.  
Rock, 90 cents per bushel.  
Perch, 25 cents per bunch.  
Carrots, 40 cents per peck.  
Clams, 10 cents per dozen.  
Trout, 15 cents per pound.  
Herring, 10 cents per dozen.  
Dates, 10 cents per pound.  
Salsify, 5 cents per bunch.  
Cynilins, four for 25 cents.  
Peppers, 5 cents per dozen.  
Potatoes, 25 cents per pound.  
Turnips, 20 cents per bushel.  
Leaves, 5 cents per bunch.  
Peanuts, 5 cents per quart.  
Pickles, 10 cents per dozen.  
Lentils, 12 cents per pound.  
Beans, 25 cents per bushel.  
Cattails, 10 cents per pound.  
Biscuits, 10 cents per dozen.  
Oatmeal, 5 cents per pound.  
Rye bread, 10 cents per loaf.  
Raddishes, 5 cents per bunch.  
Tomatoes, 20 cents a basket.  
Habbit, 20 cents per pound.  
Table salt, 4 cents per quart.  
Kale, 10 to 20 cents a bunch.  
Sweet oil, 12 to 15 cents per bottle.  
Cider, 15 to 20 cents per barrel.  
Sausages, 15 cents per pound.  
Lettuce, 5 to 8 cents a bunch.  
Pig's feet, 40 cents per dozen.  
Chow-chow, 12 cents per pint.  
New onions, 15 cents per pound.  
Dried peas, 10 cents per pound.  
Cabbage, 10 to 25 cents a head.  
Flour, 25 to 35 cents per pound.  
Middlings, 14 cents per pound.  
Veal, 15 to 20 cents per pound.  
Culinary sauce, 12 cents per pint.  
Dishes (dressed), \$1.50 per dozen.  
Apples, 30 to 40 cents per peck.  
Onions, 30 to 40 cents per peck.  
Barley, 8 to 10 cents per pound.  
Saneerkraut, 10 cents per quart.  
Tomatoes, 20 to 25 cents per quart.  
Small cukes, 10 cents per pound.  
Spinach, 20 to 30 cents a bunch.  
Fresh pork, 14 cents per pound.  
Westphalia, 15 cents per pound.  
Sardines, 15 to 20 cents per box.  
Potatoes, medium sized, 75 cents per bushel.  
Horsedishes, 25 cents per quart.  
Cheese, 20 to 35 cents per pound.  
Butter, 25 to 30 cents per pound.  
Geese (dressed), \$1 to \$1.25 each.  
Mince meat, 12 cents per pound.  
Oysters, 20 to 35 cents per quart.  
Spring lamb, 40 cents per pound.  
Graham flour, 5 cents per pound.  
Grapes, 25 to 35 cents per pound.  
Prunes, 10 to 12 cents per pound.  
Raspberries, 20 cents per bushel.  
Potatoes, 20 to 25 cents per peck.  
Corned pork, 13 cents per pound.  
Oranges, 15 to 20 cents per dozen.  
Mutton, 10 to 20 cents per pound.  
Round steak, 15 cents per pound.  
Beef, 10 to 15 cents per pound.  
Canned fruit, 9 to 10 cents a can.  
Asparagus, 15 to 20 cents a bunch.  
Corn beef, 8 to 12 cents per pound.  
Soup meat, 8 to 12 cents per pound.  
Backmeat, 4 to 5 cents per pound.  
Sardines, 12 to 15 cents per pound.  
Wild cherry, 2 to 10 cents per bunch.  
Dried corn, 12 to 13 cents per pound.  
Beans (all kinds), 15 cents per quart.  
Black peas, 12 to 20 cents per pound.  
Red outlets, 20 to 30 cents per pound.  
Tomatoes, 20 to 25 cents per pound.  
All kinds of cakes, 25 cents per pound.  
Sweet potatoes, 30 to 40 cents per peck.  
Herbs and roots, 2 to 10 cents per bunch.  
Chickens (dressed), 50 to 60 cents apiece.  
Preserves and jellies, 16 cents per pound.  
Best cuts of beef, 20 to 25 cents per pound.  
Peach and apple butter, 10 cents per pound.  
Bladenburg corn meal, 75 cents per bushel.

## EAST WASHINGTON.

The section of dark and desolate commons intervening between the southeast and southwest sections of this city afford ample opportunity for "sluggers" and bestial voracity to commit excesses upon persons who are forced to pass over them after nightfall. About a dozen last night, Mary Walton, a respectable colored girl, was approached in that neighborhood by three colored men, who used very indecent language and made threatening gestures. She fled, and hastened toward the railway track in the hope of finding assistance. The men followed her for a short distance, but finally turned about and deliberately walked toward the Carroll mansion ground, prepared to insult any passing white woman. She was so terrified that she had occasion to go through that dreary section, but was well to state that the officers on that beat have to patrol over one hundred squares, and cannot therefore be blamed for not apprehending offenders of the above class more frequently.

Acting Sergeant Nokes, whose severe illness has been announced, was in an unconscious state at last accounts, and very few hopes of his recovery are entertained by the physicians.

The latest crank who regularly visits East Washington is a tall, haired fellow with the suggestive name of Mike Mikawber. He is a moon worshiper by profession and keeps his gaze directed upward at all times.

OTTUMWA, IA.—Dr. J. N. Armstrong says: "I have used Brown's Iron Bitters in my family and recommend its use to others."

## THE COMMISSIONERS.

Current Transactions at the Various District Offices.

Building permits were issued yesterday to William Sauter to build one brick blacksmith's shop, Massachusetts avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets northwest, to cost \$2,500; Charles Hunter, to build one brick dwelling, Valley street, Georgetown, to cost \$800; Benjamin Lucas, to make repairs at 135 East Capitol street, to cost \$500; John J. Pfleger, to make repairs corner Twenty-third and O streets northwest, to cost \$900; M. M. Sherr, to make repairs corner Twenty-third and F streets northwest, to cost \$400; Anton F. Fischer, to make repairs at 900 G street northwest, to cost \$800.

There were 17 deaths, 6 births, and 1 still birth in this city yesterday.

Mr. George L. Sherer offers to the commissioners for school purposes a lot of ground on New Jersey avenue, between K and L streets, containing 7,049 feet, with a front of 45, depth 150 feet, for \$5,000.

Commissioners Edmunds and Gen. A. Birney visited the Miner school building during the progress of the examination of the normal school pupils yesterday.

Prof. Baird of the Smithsonian institution, having a letter to the commissioners requesting that a detail of policemen be present to preserve order at the ceremonies of unveiling the statue of the late Prof. Henry in the grounds of that institution on April 1 next.

In response to a request from Samuel H. Walter to have hitching posts placed in front of the city postoffice, the commissioners have replied that there are no funds available for such a purpose.

Commissioners Edmunds, Chief of Police Dye, and District Attorney Corbitt held quite an extended conference yesterday afternoon.

Capt. R. L. Hoxie, who has contracted a very severe cold from working in the shaft at the water works extension, has gone south for his health.

## An Effective Temperance Meeting.

A large and interesting temperance meeting was held in Union chapel, corner of North Carolina avenue and B street southeast, last evening under the auspices of Persovera lodge of the Good Templars. Maj. J. Thomas Turner, Hon. S. C. Mills, and Messrs. Sorell, Bailey, and Kalstrom addressed the meeting.

Mr. C. Burlew, the Fear family, and the Misses Burlingame rendered some sacred songs. Mrs. M. Naytes, or any other lodge of the Good Templars, is invited to the "Launching of the Ship."

Several persons signed the pledge, and quite a number applied for admission into the order.

## Boys' suits at A. Saks &amp; Co.

## ALEXANDRIA AFFAIRS.

A successful musical entertainment was given for the benefit of the library of the Alexandria academy by the young lady friends of the academy last evening at Armory hall.

The taking of depositions in the Evans land case was resumed before Commissioner Kemper at his office yesterday.

The schooner George W. Covington, of Havre de Grace, arrived here Wednesday morning with a cargo of Liverpool salt, via Baltimore. Our salt merchants claim they can get Liverpool salt, via New York or Baltimore, cheaper than by direct importation as vessels charter direct to New York, and cannot get direct charter to this port.

Only three lodgers, and one prisoner at the station house Tuesday night.

There are a number of Washington sports in this city at present.

## THE COUNCILS.

At a regular meeting of the common council, held last night, the following business was transacted:

S. J. Rod offered to compromise his suit now pending against the city for \$200 and costs of court. Referred to the committee on finance.

A communication was read from those persons who reside near the corner of Cameron and Columbus streets, asking that a law be passed to stop the practice of playing base ball on the vacant lot on the corner. Referred to the committee on general laws.

A resolution was received to instruct the committee on public property to purchase a lot on the west side of St. Asaph street, between King and Prince streets, or any other lot recommended by the executive committee of the Columbia steam fire engine company, as a suitable site for the new engine house. Adopted by both boards.

Mr. A. R. Williams, 713 Seventh street, has recently introduced Crushed Pennsylvania Coke, which is becoming a leading domestic fuel. Free from injurious gases, its use in the kitchen is indispensable where broiling or roasting is done. The rapidity with which a meal can be prepared is a comfort to the housewife and good nature to the guest as the time required is less than to start an ordinary fire. We advise all to try it.

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Francis H. Terrill, who has recently returned from China, has been granted leave of absence for one year.

Capt. L. A. Beardslee, now on waiting orders, has been ordered to command the receiving ship Franklin, at Norfolk, on the tenth of April.

Capt. F. M. Ramsay, superintendent of the Annapolis naval academy, called upon Secretary Chandler yesterday morning. He reports affairs at Annapolis quiet and peaceful.

## LOCAL MENTION.

"Alderney Dairy Wagons." Fresh Alderney butter churned every morning, and delivered in 12 to 13 cents per pound. Also cottage cheese, 5c. per lb.; buttermilk, 5c. per quart, and sweet milk, 5c. per quart.

The highest cash prices paid for dresses and gents' clothing, watches, jewelry, &c. Call on or address Herzog, No. 305 Ninth street, near Pennsylvania avenue.

## Died.

HOWLETT.—In Doylestown, Pa., on March 28, 1883, at the residence of Rev. T. H. Howell, in the 44th year of her age.

UTERHILL.—At 410 a. m., Tuesday, March 27, 1883, at the residence of her mother, Mrs. J. M. Uterhill, in the 72nd year of her age.

The funeral will take place from his late residence, No. 224 F street, at 2 o'clock p. m., Thursday, March 29. Relatives and friends invited to attend.

WALKER.—Monday, March 26, 1883, at 9:30 p. m., OCEANA, widow of Samuel Walker, aged 70 years and 10 days.

Funeral (private) at her late residence, 1515 I street northwest, at 2 o'clock p. m., at 2 o'clock p. m., Thursday, at Oak Hill.

Funeral at the residence of her parents, 1515 I street northwest, at 2 o'clock p. m., Thursday, at 2 o'clock p. m., Thursday, at Oak Hill.

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## Special Notices.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF WILLIAM A. Freeman Lodge, No. 2095, G. O. O. F. O. F. will be held on FRIDAY EVENING, MARCH 30, 1883, at 7 o'clock. All members are requested to be present at 7:30 o'clock. By order of the Noble Grand.

CHARLES CALVERT LANCASTER, ATTORNEY AND SOLICITOR, OFFICE, 131 F STREET.

Practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, in the Courts of the District of Columbia, and the various State and Territorial Courts. Special attention to Claims and Collections.

NATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE (MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY), 1127 F STREET, BETWEEN THIRTEENTH AND FOURTEENTH STREETS. The spring course of lectures will begin on TUESDAY, APRIL 2, at 9 a. m., with an introductory lecture by Dr. Frank Baker. The professors and public are cordially invited.

A. KING, M. D., Dean, 726 Thirtieth street northwest.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY, MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, Spring courses will open MONDAY, APRIL 2, at 6 p. m. These lectures are free to all.

C. R. FURVY, M. D., Secretary, No. 625 1st street northwest.

The business of the late JOHN MARKWITER will be continued as before, at the old stand, 625 E street northwest, under the supervision of Mr. Stephen Markwiter, who is authorized to receipt all bills for the executor. All persons indebted to the estate will please call and settle.

PREPARED BY FOOD, BEED, SAND, &c., EY'S Cream Balm, Holman's Pads, Pure Cold Liver Oil, 30 cents a pint, at COUGHLIN'S.

POSTOFFICE NOTICE

Parcels mails for the week ending March 31 will close at this office as follows:

THURSDAY.—At 8 a. m. for Europe, per steamship City of Paris, via Quebec (letters for Germany and France must be directed "per City of Paris") at 10 a. m. for Canada, per steamship City of New York, via New York, at 10 a. m. for Mexico, per steamship City of Mexico, via Havana, at 10 a. m. for Brazil, per steamship City of Rio de Janeiro, via Rio de Janeiro, at 10 a. m. for South America, per steamship City of Buenos Aires, via Buenos Aires, at 10 a. m. for Australia, per steamship City of Melbourne, via Melbourne, at 10 a. m. for India, per steamship City of Calcutta, via Calcutta, at 10 a. m. for Japan, per steamship City of Yokohama, via Yokohama, at 10 a. m. for China, per steamship City of Shanghai, via Shanghai, at 10 a. m. for Hong Kong, per steamship City of Hong Kong, via Hong Kong, at 10 a. m. for India, per steamship City of Calcutta, via Calcutta, at 10 a. m. for Japan, per steamship City of Yokohama, via Yokohama, at 10 a. m. for China, per steamship City of Shanghai, via 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